



YESAB

Yukon Environmental and
Socio-economic Assessment Board

yesab.ca



Presentation to the
Select Committee: risks and
benefits of hydraulic fracturing

Overview

- Oil and gas projects
- Sectors
- Assessment process
- Mining projects
- Purpose and requirements of YESAA
- Expertise
- Participation
- Decision Bodies and documents





Oil and Gas Projects

- 10 oil and gas projects assessed to date
- None involved modern hydraulic fracturing methods
- Modern hydraulic fracturing is an activity that would be subject to the assessment process under YESAA



Sectors

- Energy - oil and gas, electricity, nuclear (104)
- Mining - placer, quartz, coal (609)
- Land development - residential, commercial, industrial (319)
- Forestry (26)
- Transportation - roads, rail, marine, air (170)
- Telecommunications (4)
- Water / wastewater (46)
- Contaminants and Waste (122)
- Agriculture and Aquaculture (72)
- Research / Wildlife Management (19)
- Other Industrial Activities (81)



Three Levels of Assessment

Designated Office (DO) Evaluation

1701 assessments completed since November 2005

Executive Committee Screening

4 assessments completed since November 2005

3 assessments currently underway

Panel of the Board Review

not been used to date



Hydraulic Fracturing-assessment levels

- **Designated Office**

- exploration or other activity in relation to exploration for oil or natural gas
- drilling, operation, modification, decommissioning or abandonment of or activity in relation to:
 - an oil or natural gas well,
 - natural gas processing plant,
 - plant for liquefaction or storage of natural gas
 - oil or natural gas field facility
 - oil or natural gas pipeline

- **Executive Committee**

- processing plants for sour, sweet, liquefied natural gas - of a certain magnitude
- storage plant for natural gas – storage capacity of certain magnitude
- oil or natural gas pipeline of a certain length, off-shore or in fresh water

Assessment Process

Project / Activity

Access

-road and trail construction/maintenance, water crossings, barge landing, airstrip

Exploration

-surveys, drilling, trenching, test pits, explosives

Operation

-clearing land, moving earth, tree cutting/removal, excavation, resource extraction, construction/installation/manufacturing, water use, human presence, camp, waste management, fuel use, tourism, research, seismic

Reclamation

Closure and Decommissioning

Effects

Negative and/or Positive

- Magnitude
- Geographic Extent
- Duration
- Likelihood of occurrence
- Reversibility
- Context
- Frequency

Significance

Mitigation

Values

Environmental

Air Quality
Environmental Quality
Fish & Fish Habitat
Soil Quality
Water Quality
Wildlife & Wildlife Habitat

Socio-economic

Access
Aesthetics
Business Values
Property Values
Employment
Health & Safety
Heritage Resources
Land Interest
Timber Resources
Traditional/Contemporary Lifestyle
Wilderness Experience



Mining Projects – our experience

- Information requirements
 - Baseline information
 - Surface water quantity and quality information
 - Groundwater flow and quality information
 - Geotechnical information
 - Wildlife and habitat
- Guides for proponents
 - Water Information Requirements for Quartz Mining Project Proposals

Values

- Water resources
- Wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Soils
- Vegetation
- Public health and safety
- Heritage resources
- Community



YESAA – Purpose (s. 5)

- To provide a neutral process done at arms length from governments
- To protect environmental quality and heritage resources
- To ensure socio-economic as well as environmental factors are considered
- To guarantee opportunities for public and First Nation participation



Matters to be Considered (s. 42)

- Purpose of the project
- All stages of a project
- Environmental or socio-economic effects of project (in or outside of Yukon)
- Adverse cumulative environmental or socio-economic effects
- Alternatives to the project

Matters to be Considered (s. 42)

- Mitigative measures
- Protection of First Nations' rights, special relationship to the environment, cultures, traditions, health and lifestyles
- Interests of residents of Yukon and Canadians outside of Yukon



Expertise Used in Assessments

- Assessment team
- Government experts
- Interested persons
- Research and training
- Technical and traditional knowledge experts



Participation in Assessments

- Guaranteed opportunity for First Nations, individuals and groups to provide comments on projects being assessed
- Media can assist in creating public awareness which can lead to increased participation rates

Decision Bodies

- First Nations with self-government agreements
- Territorial Minister
- Federal Agency or Minister

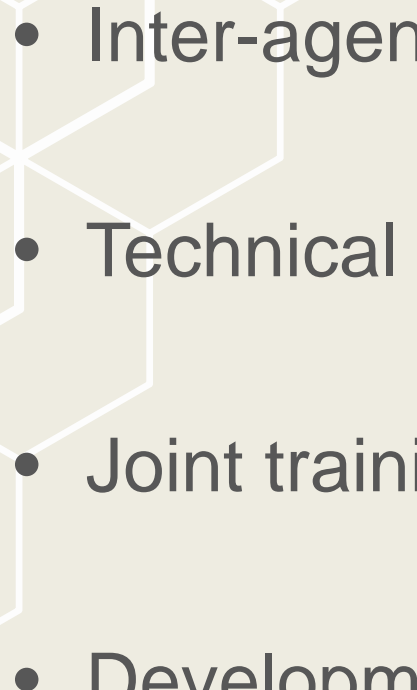
may accept, reject or vary recommendations
when issuing a Decision Document

Decision Documents

- A Decision Document must be issued before any Regulator can issue permits or authorizations
- Permits or authorizations must be consistent with the terms and conditions included in the Decision Document



Collaboration

- 
- Inter-agency
 - Technical working groups
 - Joint training sessions
 - Development of guides

Information and Resources

- The YESAB Online Registry

<http://www.yesab.tzo.com/wfm/lamps/yesab/lampslauch.jsp;time=1379534711335>

- Justice Canada website:

<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/Y-2.2/>

- External expertise

- Briefing binder